

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY QUITO NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PANAMA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142409

FOL RPT GRENADA 0050 ACTION SECSTATE 19 JUN 77 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GRENADA 0050

FROM USDEL OASGA

USOAS DEL 35

FOR THE SECRETARY; FOR ARA AMB TODMAN; L/ARA WILLIS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OAS, SHUM

SUBJ: APPROACHES TO OAS CAPITALS ON US/VENEZUELA/COSTA RICA
RESOLUTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

1. WE ARE NOW GOING INTO THE NOSE-COUNTING STAGE. COMMITTEE
I MEETS AT 10 AM JUNE 20 TO CONSIDER A VARIETY OF HUMAN
RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS. DELEGATIONS TAKING AN ACTIVE LEADERSHIP
ROLE IN FAVOR OF STRONG HUMAN RITHTS RESOLUTIONS GENERALLY
AND READY TO CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT OUR RESOLUTION ARE:

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VENEZUELA, JAMAICA, MEXICO, AND COSTA RICA. THERE ARE DIFFERENCES
OF SUBSTANCE AND APPROACH BUT ALL OF US ARE WORKING TOGETHER
WELL.

2. DELEGATIONS WHICH ARE TAKING A LESS ACTIVE ROLE BUT ARE
STILL FIRMLY BEHIND US AND READY TO TAKE STRONG HUMAN RITHTS
STANCE ARE: THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, TRINIDAD, BARBADOS,

AND SURINAM. COLOMBIA SHOULD BE IN THIS CATEGORY AS WELL BUT FONMIN LIEVANO'S INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE LEAVING WERE TO KEEP WORKING TO PASS HIS OWN UNFORTUNATE RESOLUTION. THESE INSTRUCTIONS HAVE LEFT AMB GOMEZ IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION AS HEAD OF DELEGATION. IN THE END, WE BELIEVE WE CAN COUNT ON HIS SUPPORT BUT FOR THE MOMENT, HE IS STYMIED. OUR GRAVEST CONCERN IS THAT GOMEZ WILL FEEL OBLIGATED TO TRY TO INTRODUCE LANGUAGE ALONG LINES OF LIEVANO RESOLUTION CRITICAL OF IAHRIC AND CALLING FOR REFORM OF THE COMMISSION. THE SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES WILL OBVIOUSLY SUPPORT STRONGLY. FONMIN FACIO'S STATEMENT CRITICIZING IAHRIC AND GENERALLY IN FAVOR OF THIS COURSE IS AN ADDITIONAL COMPLICATION. UNFORTUNATELY, FONMINS OF TWO LEADING ALLIES HAVE MADE LIFE DIFFICULT FOR THEIR OAS AMBASSADORS, WHOSE INSTINCT IS TO SUPPORT US AND GET GOOD HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS PASSED.

3. IAHRIC CHAIRMAN AGUILAR TOLD US YESTERDAY AT LUNCH THAT HIS NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS TO PREVENT PASSAGE OF A RESOLUTION FINDING FAULT WITH THE COMMISSION'S WORK. HE IS AFRAID ANY CRITICISM OF THE IAHRIC IN A RESOLUTION OR SUGGESTION IT NEEDS REFORMING WOULD GIVE THE SOUTHERN CONE AND OTHER OFFENDERS A PRETEXT FOR REFUSING TO COOPERATE WITH THE COMMISSION UNTIL IT HAS BEEN REFORMED. NEWEST SOUTHERN CONE TACTIC IS TO SAY IAHRIC SHOULD BE IGNORED UNTIL SAN JOSE PACT COMES INTO FORCE AND "IMPROVED COMMISSION CAN BE FORMED. IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF FACIO COULD BE PERSUADED TO INSTRUCT AMBASSADOR SILVA TO RESIST LANGUAGE KNOCKING WORK OF IAHRIC OR DEMANDING ITS REFORM.

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4. COUNTRIES WHOSE DELEGATIONS ARE ON THE FENCE FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER ARE: HONDURAS, PANAMA, ECUADOR, BOLIVIA PERU, HAITI AND GRENADA. DELEGATIONS LEANING AWAY FROM THE US POSITION ARE HONDURAS, ECUADOR, BOLIVIA, AND HAITI. DELEGATIONS LEANING TOWARD US ARE PANAMA, PERU AND GRENADA.

5. WE BELIEVE THE TIME HAS COME TO GO TO THE CAPITALS TO PRESS FOR SUPPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS. WE JUDGE THAT NOT MUCH CAN BE DONE ABOUT HONDURAS (BECAUSE THE DEPUTY MINISTER IS HERE), OR PERU (BECAUSE AMBASSADOR MARCHAND IS ALREADY PUSHING HIS MINISTER TOWARDS MORE LIBERAL POSITIONS) OR GRENADA (WHICH CAN BE LEFT TO THE OTHER CARIBBEAN DELEGATIONS.)

6. IT IS CRUCIAL, HOWEVER, THAT WE OBTAIN THE SUPPORT OF PANAMA, ECUADOR, BOLIVIA AND HAITI. WITH THESE FOUR DELEGATIONS LINED UP BEHIND US, VENEZUELA, COSTA RICA, ETC, WE HAVE A GOOD CHANCE OF PASSING SERIES OF CONSTRUCTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTIONS OR, AT MINIMUM, AVOIDING ATTACKS ON IAHRIC

AND DEMANDS IT ADDRESS TERRORISM, REFORM ITSELF, ETC.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: USDEL REQUESTS DEPARTMENT INSTRUCT OUR AMBASSADORS IN PANAMA, QUITO, LA PAZ AND PORT AU PRINCE SEEK URGENT APPOINTMENT MODAY JUNE 20 AT HIGHEST LEVELS POSSIBLE TO REQUEST THAT HOST GOVERNMENT INSTRUCT ITS OAS DELEGATION TO STAND WITH THE OTHER DEMOCRATIC STATES AND SUPPORT OUR RESOLUTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

8. RESOLUTIONS AT GA REQUIRE THIRTEEN VOTES TO PASS. THERE ARE NOW ONLY TEN DELEGATIONS ON WHICH WE CAN COUNT. THE SIX UNDECIDES (PANANA, HAITI, ECUADOR, BOLIVIA, PERU AND HONDURAS) ARE CRUCIAL TO GOOD OUTCOME. IF DEPARTMENT JUDGES DIRECT APPROACHES TO FOUR OF SIX CAPITALS ARE LIKELY TO BE PRODUCTIVE, PLEASE REPEAT THIS TELEGRAM AND USDEL CABLES (GRENADA 0038, 0041 0044, AND 0045) TO PANAMA, QUITO, LA PAZ, AND PORT-AU-PRINCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO APPROACH
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FONOFFS URGENTLY TO SEEK NOW, PRO-HUMAN RIGHTS INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR DELEGATIONS.

MCGEE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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